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LETTER DATED 4 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, issued on 2 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, issued on 2 March 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the fact that Eritrea has accepted the draft of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for a framework agreement by means of a letter which the Eritrean President sent to the United Nations Security Council on 27 February 1999. The Union considers the OAU proposal to be the only basis for a peaceful solution of the conflict. This position was emphasized by the European Union ministerial troika which visited Addis Ababa and Asmara on 19 and 20 February.

The European Union again urges both parties to immediately cease hostilities on all fronts and to refrain from any further use of violence.

Given the fact that Ethiopia had already accepted the OAU plan, the European Union considers that both parties now have the chance to settle their conflict through negotiations on the basis of that document, which has the support of the European Union and the United Nations Security Council. It calls upon Ethiopia and Eritrea to fully implement the OAU framework agreement without any further delay.

The European Union reiterates its willingness to assist OAU in the implementation of a negotiated settlement of the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict.

The Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus associated with the European Union and the countries members of the European Free Trade Association of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.